

30 October 1974



25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: 

SUBJECT : NIB--Economic Items in October 1974

1. Through today, 8 of the 24 bulletins contained no economic items; 27 appeared in the remaining 16 issues. And of these, a significant number were prepared by OCI--most likely, that Office's Regional Organizations Branch produced the five items on EC economic policy decisions, e.g., re energy and sugar. Thus, OER--a prolific producer--is averaging less than one item per day. It is quite apparent that it just is not writing for the NIB.

2. OER's principal vehicles for transmitting its policy-oriented analyses to a wide audience are its two weekly periodicals: the Economic Intelligence Weekly (EIW), and the International Oil Developments (IOD). Thus, today's EIW notes that the industrial slump is deepening in the developed countries and that the UN World Food Conference will convene next week in Rome, in an atmosphere of insecurity about food supplies. Neither of these topics--multilateral by nature--have been covered during the past weeks in the NIB. Indeed, the NIB is a journal that seemingly concentrates on either country developments or bilateral (e.g., France-Libya) relationships. At this juncture, however, it is worth noting that OER is making an effort to get its principal analytical findings into the NID. A review of the NID, therefore, would indicate a much greater economic input. (The rationale: presumably, the President and the Secretary of State read the NID, but neither the EIW nor the IOD.)

3. Aside from the NIB, I encountered no DINs or WHSRs of an economic nature: usually, economic items do not have this time urgency.

4. As for me, I would prefer to provide technical assistance as needed to the PRD country officers when the items are country-oriented. I would, nonetheless, be prepared to comment on the multilateral topics: energy and grain developments, Arab investments, economic growth in the West, and so forth.